

Margaret-Lee Thompson

ODEP Subject Matter Expert



Margaret-Lee Thompson retired from the position of Coordinator of the King County Parent Coalition for Developmental Disabilities, which is a program of The Arc of King County. The Parent Coalition, formed by Margaret-Lee in 1990, is a group of parents and family members who have an interest in the D.D. system and want to affect change. They are active in King County issues and the state legislature. This Coalition was the first in the state of Washington. There are now Parent Coalitions in 15 counties in Washington State.

Margaret-Lee and her husband are the parents of a son with Down Syndrome, who passed away at the age of 36 years. While raising their three children, she worked as a volunteer advocate in four states for 20 years. (Daughter is a disability attorney and teaches Disability Law at the University of Washington's Law School. She has served on the Arc of WA Board. Son has a PhD in Public Health-Genetics (also MPH and MPA) from University of Washington – staff at Newborn Screening Laboratory. He is a Board member of the Arc of WA Trust.)

**Biography, Awards & Education can
be found on the following pages.**

Biography in Disabilities

2000-2010, 2011-14

Current Chair, founding Board member of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund Board.

1999-present

Board member, Washington Initiative for Supported Employment

1990-2011

Coordinator of King County Parent Coalition for Developmental Disabilities Coordinate. The Parent Coalition is a county-wide group of parents, representing different parent groups. Monthly meetings, information dispersal, teaching advocacy for these family members. Mentored hundreds of parents in Olympia during the State Legislative sessions. From 1994, KCPC was a program of The Arc of King Co. As well as legislative advocacy, participated in county and state developmental disabilities issues. Oversaw staff member who performed Parent Education and Training.

1991-1993

State Board of Directors, The Arc of Washington.

1988-1990

Chair and organizer of Parent Group at Lake Washington High School, Kirkland WA, Transition Class. Monthly meetings and direct advocacy. Stated goal: jobs for our children graduating from high school.

1983-1986

Member of Special Education Advisory Committee of Richardson Independent School District, Richardson, TX.

1982-1986

Founding officer of Richardson Association for Retarded Citizens (A.R.C.), Richardson TX.

1973-1974

Chair of Education Committee, Madison A.R.C., Madison WI. Committee charged with preliminary writing of Education for All Law for state of Wisconsin.

1968

Birth of son with developmental disabilities. Son was original participant of pilot project for infant stimulation of babies with Down Syndrome at University of Washington, Seattle WA.

Awards

2010 Advocacy Matters! – a national award from The Arc of the United States

2009 Leadership Award, The Arc of King County

2008 Provail (formerly United Cerebral Palsy) Award for Advocacy

2007 Outstanding Leadership, The Arc of Washington State

2005 Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, African American Family Gathering, King Co.

2004 Parkview Services Award. Seattle WA, for long term advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

2000 Arc of Washington State, **“In recognition of your dedication and outstanding contributions on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and their families.”**

1995 Appreciation Award, Arc of Washington State

1991 Award of Excellence, King Co. Arc, given for long term advocacy.

1990 Volunteer of the Year, National TASH (The Association for the Severely Handicapped), given for work concerning employment for Transition-age students in Washington State.

1985 Volunteer of the Year, Dallas TX A.R.C., given for organizing a city summer recreation program for children with Developmental Disabilities. Cooperative program between City Recreation staff, School building use and Jr. League volunteers.

Education

1962-1965

Student, University of California, Riverside; full academic scholarship

1966-1967

B.S. Botany; minors: Chemistry, German. University of Washington; full academic scholarship

1967-1968

Graduate student and Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Botany, University of Washington
All course work for Master's in Science completed. With birth of son with Down Syndrome, the degree was not completed.